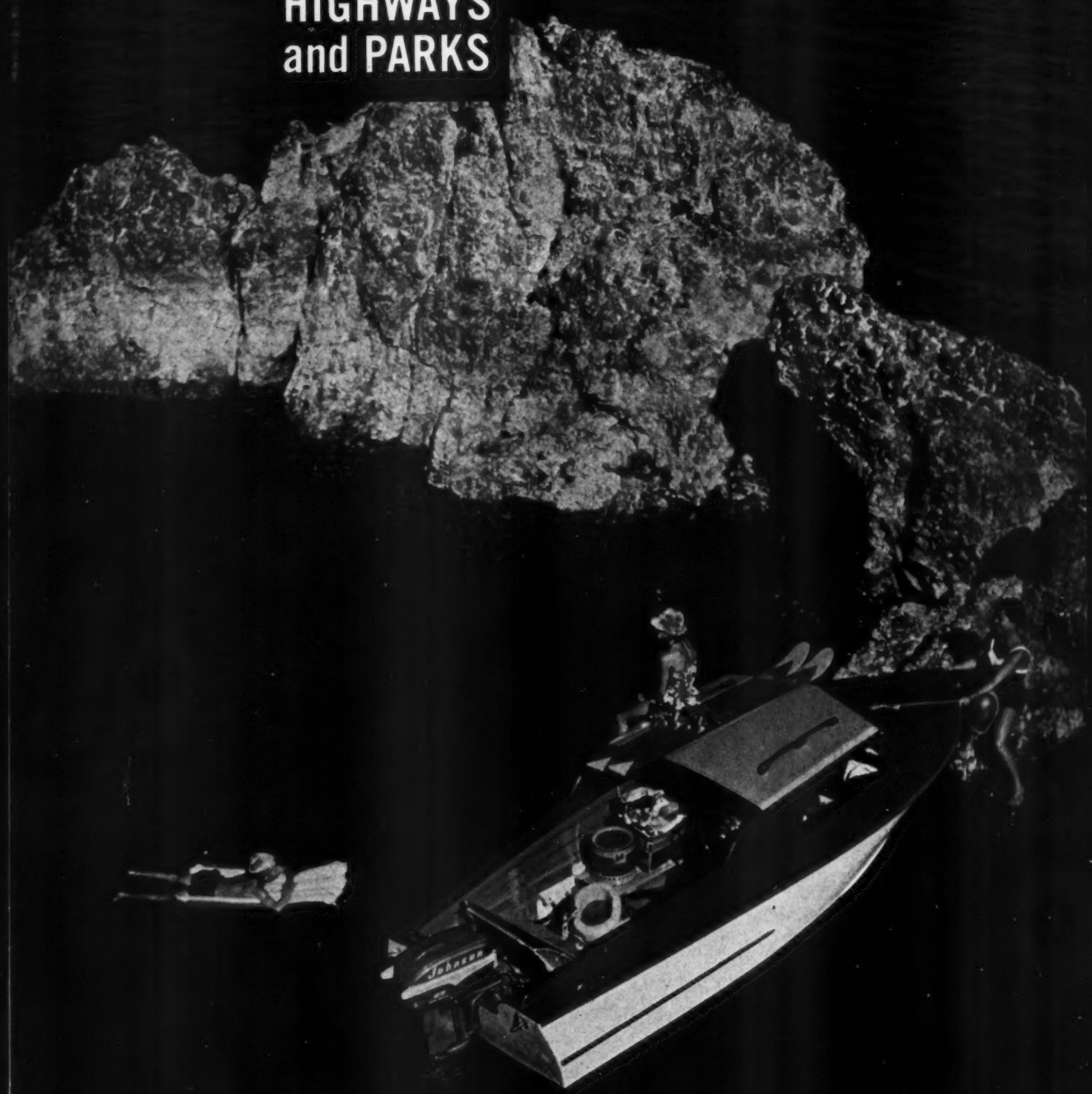
NO. 1 1960

NEVADA

HIGHWAYS and PARKS



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HIGHWAYS and PARKS

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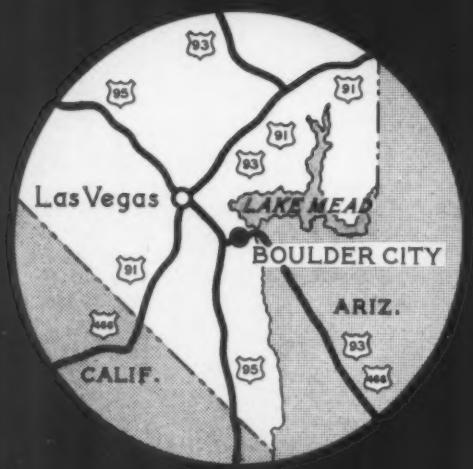


Center of attention in this map of Nevada's sharp southern tip is Boulder City. The state's newest city is described in the article, opposite.

Freedom Edition
Boulder City News
The Home of (Hoover)
THURSDAY, JANUARY 7, 1960, BOULDER CITY, NEVADA
THE BIRTH OF A
AN EDITORIAL
THE BIRTH OF A CITY!
MUSIC, PRAYER AND BLESSINGS
MARK BIRTH OF BOULDER CITY

Boulder City Comes of Age...

By GENE SEGERBLOM - Photos by CLIFF SEGERBLOM

Just 29 years after the first boundary of Boulder City was bladed out of the southern Nevada desert, it's "here-we-go-again" for this little community perched high above the rim of Black Canyon. On January 4, 1960, Boulder City shed its federal cloak and joined the sisterhood of Nevada cities.

Unlike most Nevada towns that started as mining, cattle or trade centers, Boulder City owes its beginning to a manmade phenomenon—to mighty Hoover Dam spanning the Colorado River. The community today presents

A Well Planned, Well Kept Community is Now Nevada's Youngest City

a marked contrast to the original tent town which sprang up early in 1931. Broad green lawns, parks and wide tree-lined streets have replaced the dusty streets and barren desert hills which composed the doubtful view of 29 years ago. But the city was carefully laid out and has become exactly what its founding father, the United States Government, had in mind for it—a well planned model city, attractive in every respect.

Boulder City had none of the growing pains

Nevada's Governor Grant Sawyer (right) and Boulder City's new mayor, Robert Broadbent (left), took over the city from Bureau of Reclamation official, A. B. West, early in 1960.

Seventy percent of Boulder's students continue on to college after leaving the verdant high school campus. Six young men, graduates of the excellent Boulder City schools, are presently at Annapolis and the Air Force Academy.

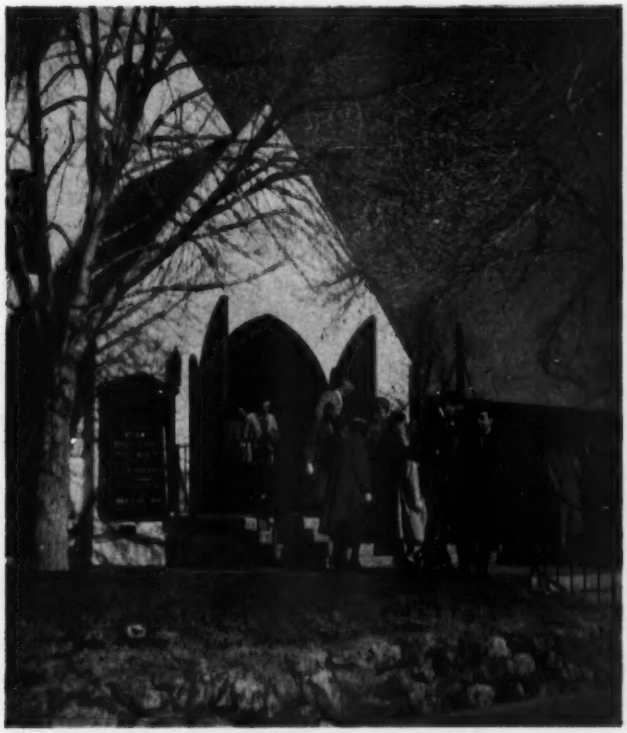
that plague most young cities. There were no worries about water, power, streets, houses, parks, fire and police protection, or hospitalization, and even the payroll presented no problem. The latter was of prime significance when it is remembered that Boulder City was created in the midst of the worst depression in the history of the nation.

To protect it and to make certain that it would remain exclusively a residential town for workers at Hoover Dam, planners made a "reservation" of the infant city wherein there was to be sobriety, demure behavior and no games of chance.

Boulder City residents plan to keep it like this. Even though they are now free from federal apron strings, they have voted to retain the conservative habits of former years.

If for no other reason, then, the city is unique in a state well known for its liberal ways.

In becoming an incorporated city, Boulder City received a rich inheritance consisting of power,



Civic Minded Boulderites Eagerly Join in Community Activities

water and sewer systems, municipal buildings, streets, sidewalks and curbs, parks—in short, all the appurtenances that go into the furnishing of a modern city. Only properties not turned over to the new municipality were those retained by the Bureau of Reclamation for its operation. School buildings and facilities, representing an investment of one and a half million dollars, were transferred to the Clark County School District.

The Bureau of Reclamation also transferred

Known as the Damboree, annual July Fourth celebration (above) features a variety of events. Left, students look over this model of Hoover Dam at the annual high school science exhibit.

ownership of 33 square miles, or 21,674 acres, of land to the incorporated city. A total of 1,021 leased residential and nonresidential lots, valued by the Federal Housing Administration at $2,393,900, is included in the area.

Although the population has shrunk from a peak of 6,000 during construction in 1934 to some 3,800 residents at present, an orderly growth is predicted. Most of the citizens hope that population expansion will come slowly, so that schools and other facilities can keep pace with expected increases.

To make certain this happens, the members of the new city council will carefully study a land-use map before they authorize the sale of any undeveloped land. This, they feel, will prevent haphazard growth.

Most of Boulder City's businessmen waited patiently for incorporation, anticipating that self-government would mean greater prosperity. Up

Boulder residents enthusiastically pitch in to help run their nonprofit hospital. Local organizations provide manpower to keep the building freshly painted and well stocked with medical supplies.

The new swimming pool is a favored recreation spot for both old and young. Last year's powerful team took a first-place award in the state's annual meet.

For Recreation, the City Turns to the Lake that Brought it into Existence

to now the number of businesses has been limited by the government. Also, operators were required to have permits and leases for the land on which they located their buildings and these had to meet rigid construction standards. Through the years the economy, although not booming, has been stable, related to employment on the dam and other government and agency work.

One thing the planners did not foresee was that Hoover Dam would become such a popular tourist

attraction. They imagined that the town would prosper only as long as it housed workers on the dam. Instead, it thrived as visitors continued to flock to the dam and to Lake Mead. The lake proved to be a stellar attraction on its own merits and opened the area to another untapped source of revenue—spending by the boating enthusiast.

The tourist dollar has helped keep the town going. Many new motels have been constructed in the past few years to accommodate the influx; still, on three-day weekends it is almost impossible to find a vacant room. This town with its home-made lake now finds itself in the midst of the big boating boom—an enviable situation in this vast desert state! Moreover, local residents have gone nautical with a will. It's not two cars in every garage, but a car and a boat.

Boulder City is essentially a family town. Bachelors and marriageable young women are in the minority. It is an unhurried, peaceful town known

Left, attractive Barbara Jean Clark holds an hour's catch of Lake Mead's famous bass. Right, Buzzy Belknap and Tick Segerblom are avid spear-fishing, a popular sport on the lake.

Above, the National Park Service provides fine beaches, campgrounds and other facilities along the lake. Left, the sweeping view of the lake and mountains from the pool at Lake Mead Lodge.

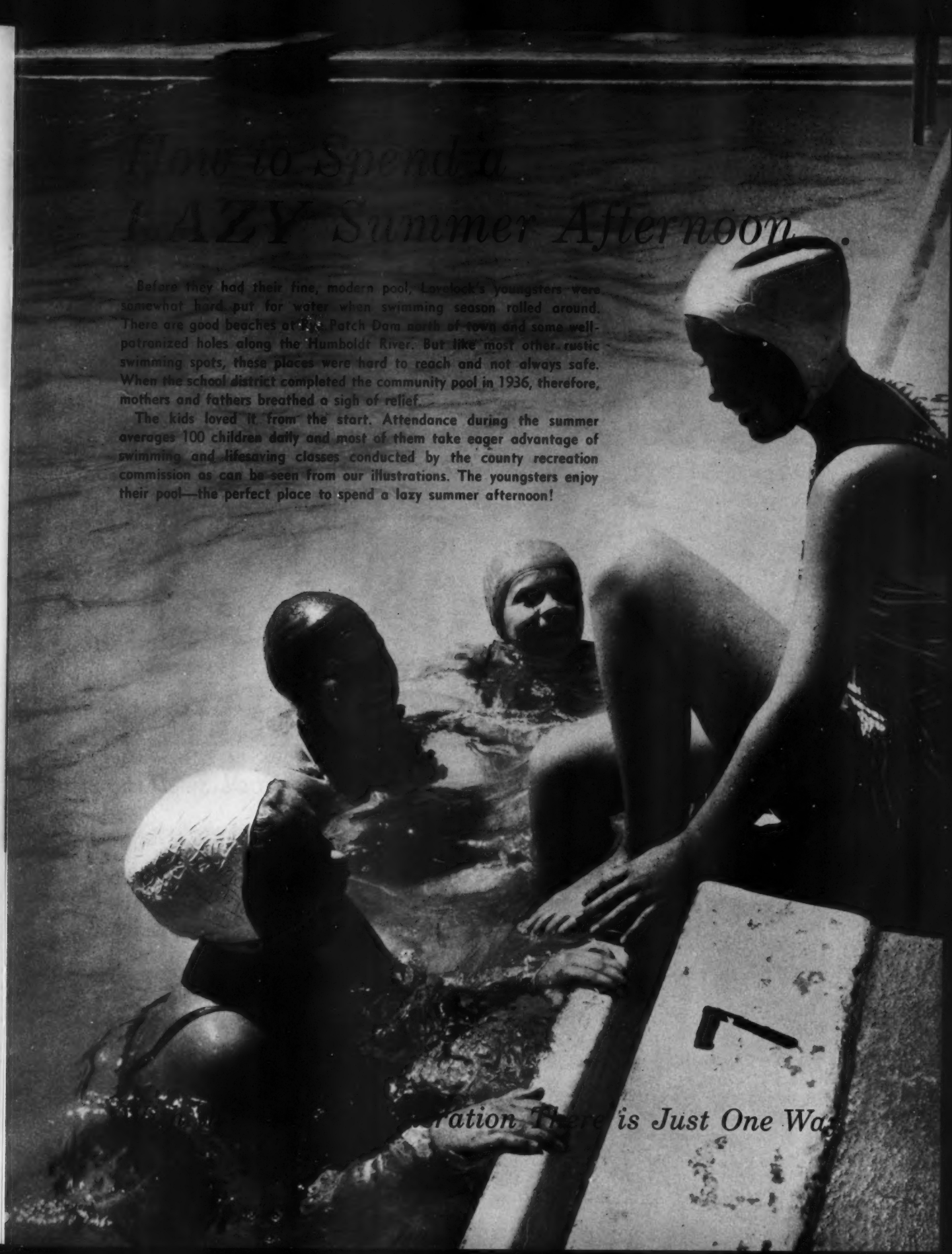
throughout southern Nevada as a "wonderful place to raise the children." The low record of juvenile problems in the community is indicative that this slogan is indeed a reality in Boulder City. Under the administration of the city's youthful mayor, Robert Broadbent, and the four local men elected to serve with him on the city council, it is certain that Boulder City will retain the excellent reputation it has already earned in Nevada.

Although mellowing, Boulder City is not a dull place to live. The town boasts ten churches and many welfare, cultural, civic, fraternal and service organizations. Youth groups are energetically supported. One of these, the Boulder City Recreation Association, sponsors all types of young people's activities with volunteer workers heading up a year-round sports program that includes football, baseball, tennis, basketball and swimming. Boulderites are particularly proud of their swim team, which last year tied for first place in the state swimming and diving competitions, a proud attainment for a town as small as Boulder City.

The National Park Service is in charge of the adjacent Lake Mead National Recreation Area and is closely interested in the town's welfare. Doing a superb job of providing for vacationers is the staff of the Park Service office located in downtown Boulder City. Recent expansion of camping, boating and other recreation facilities testifies to the importance that Superintendent Charles Richey and his men attach to tourist needs. In addition to the Park Service, two other government offices are located in Boulder City, a Bureau of Reclamation regional center and a Bureau of Mines substation. Where the city limits end, the Park Service domain begins, a transition marked by a rustic wooden sign reading *Lake Mead National Recreation Area.*

This vast area takes in some 2,655 square miles of federally owned land and includes not only Lake Mead but its close relative, Lake Mohave. The latter body of water was formed by Davis Dam, huge earth and rock structure 67 miles downstream from Hoover Dam. The Park Service is faced with the never-ending task of keeping facilities ahead of the tremendous influx of tourists. Scope of this task becomes clear when it is known that more than 2,000,000 sightseers, campers, boatmen, anglers and cross-country travelers are now coming to the area annually. Among the most enthusiastic visitors are southern Californians who willingly trail their boats 300 miles in order to spend a weekend on one of the lakes, enjoying fishing and water sports.

What's in store for Boulder City? Its residents are optimistic, generating nothing but enthusiasm for the town's future. Most of them came here when the government was still in control. They have remained because they have confidence in the community as an ideal spot to pursue their professions, raise their families and enjoy the good life. That growth will come, they are certain. But they expect fully to take it in stride and to profit from the improvements that growth will bring. For years to come, they know, Boulder City will continue to be the "city of dreams come true."



How to Spend a LAZY Summer Afternoon . . .

Before they had their fine, modern pool, Lovelock's youngsters were somewhat hard put for water when swimming season rolled around. There are good beaches at the Patch Dam north of town and some well-patronized holes along the Humboldt River. But like most other rustic swimming spots, these places were hard to reach and not always safe. When the school district completed the community pool in 1936, therefore, mothers and fathers breathed a sigh of relief.

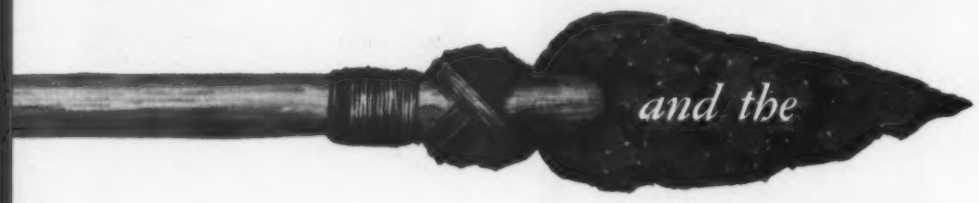
The kids loved it from the start. Attendance during the summer averages 100 children daily and most of them take eager advantage of swimming and lifesaving classes conducted by the county recreation commission as can be seen from our illustrations. The youngsters enjoy their pool—the perfect place to spend a lazy summer afternoon!

...ration There is Just One Wa...

No School, a Warm Afternoon, a Clear Pool . . . . . It All

ll *Adds Up to a Juvenile Paradise in Sun-drenched Lovelock*

MAJOR ORMSBY



and the INDIAN WAR

Nevada's bloodiest Indian war took the life of one of the state's most able pioneers, Major William M. Ormsby. This year marks the centennial anniversary of the battle of May 12, 1860 near Pyramid Lake in which Ormsby was killed while leading a company of militia against a large Paiute war party.

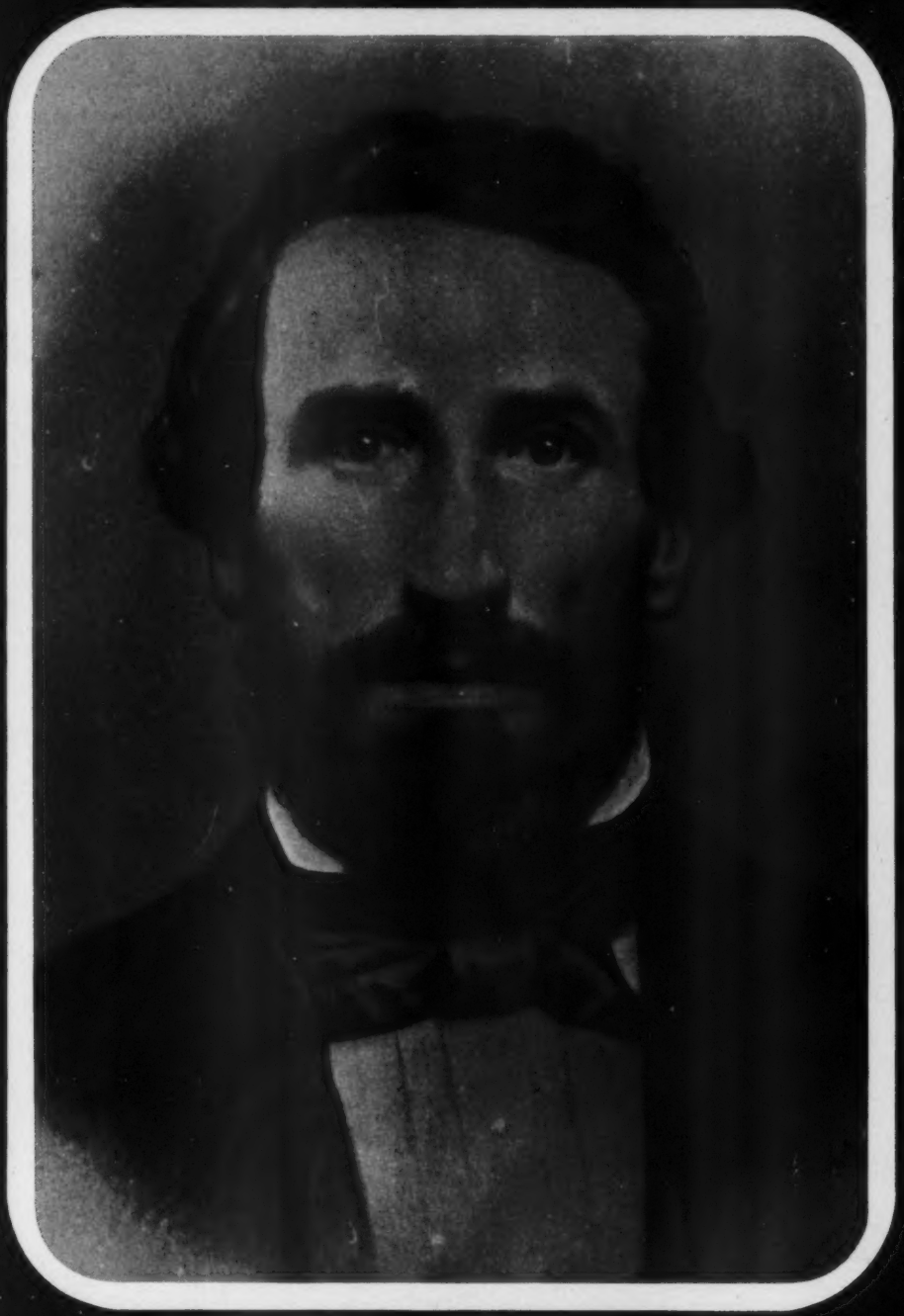
Major Ormsby came to Nevada in the mid-1850's as an agent for the Pioneer Stage Company, a freight line he and his brothers operated between Placerville, California, and Genoa, the first settlement in Nevada. While living in Genoa, he took part in the region's early attempts to secede from the territorial government in Utah. At the same time, Ormsby's vision of statehood led him to follow another early pioneer leader, Abraham Curry, in promoting the Carson City townsite in Eagle Valley as the future state capital. Here he built the Ormsby House, famous early-day hotel, a stage stop and prominent gathering place.

At the height of Major Ormsby's career in Carson City, word was received that Indians on May 7 had raided the Williams Ranch near the Carson River about 50 miles east. The following day a party of 105 volunteers from towns in the area joined with a Carson contingent led by Major Ormsby and marched down to the Carson River to seek out the Paiutes and punish them for the massacre.

To quote an author of the period, the party was poorly armed, badly mounted and almost wholly unorganized. The majority of the men thought that there would not be much of a fight, that they would have "a bit of a skirmish with the Indians, kill a few of them, capture a lot of ponies, and have a rather good time."

After arriving at the river and finding no Indians the expedition pushed on to the Truckee River and up toward Pyramid Lake, the home grounds of the tribe, where they encountered warriors on the high bluffs above the river. The volunteers foolishly charged into the river ravine and into deadly Paiute fire. Of the 105 men who went into the fight, half were killed. Among the victims was Major Ormsby.

On May 24, another expedition set out from Virginia City to avenge those who fell at Pyramid Lake. This time the force consisted of 207 regular troops and 549 volunteers, all well armed. Contact was made with the Indians on June 2 near the previous battleground and the fight was short, ending in a decisive victory for the militia. Following the battle the remains of Major Ormsby and the others who had fallen earlier were brought back for burial. In Ormsby's honor the county in which the capital city was soon to be established was named after him.



VOLCANOES!

By Conrad Martin

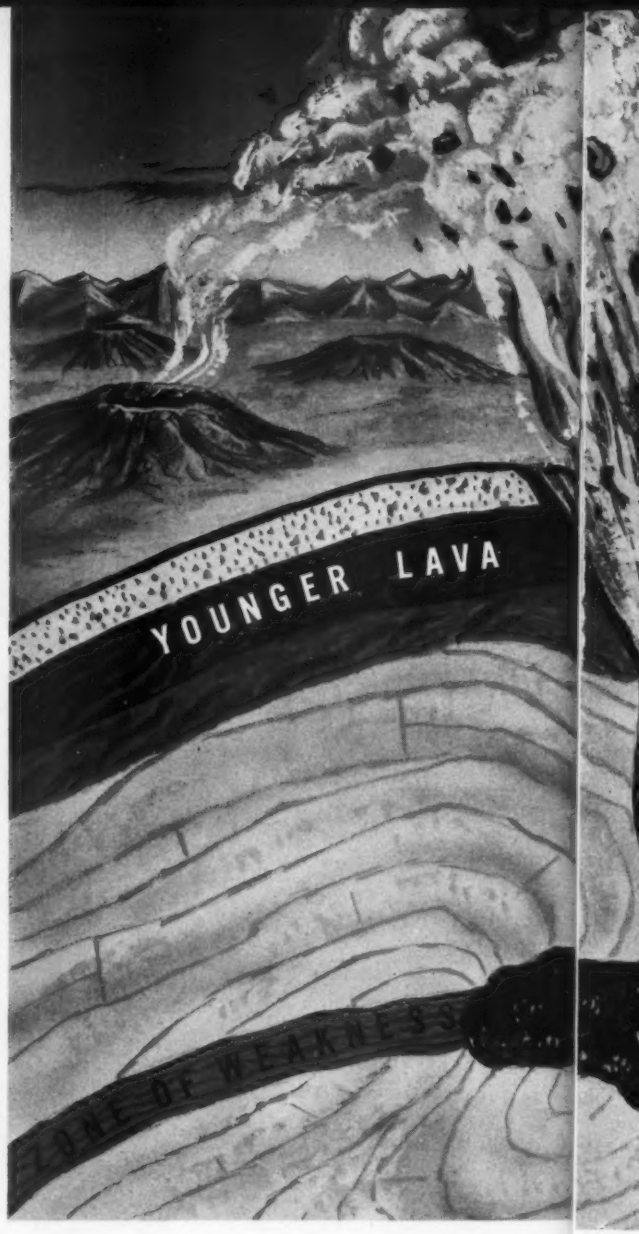
The Indians might well have called it the land of silent thunder. There can be no doubt that those who witnessed it were terrified by the thunderous event which once took place in this remote central Nevada desert. Setting for this unusual geological drama to which the quiet landscape testifies today is a volcanic area on U. S. 6 between Tonopah and Ely. Here, a few miles south of the highway, surrounded by a field of ominous, purple cinder cones and frozen lava flows, lies a mammoth, steep-walled pit named by incredulous pioneers who first saw it—the Lunar Crater.

What caused it? To find an answer let us turn back the clock a thousand years or so and see what was probably happening in this remote place.

The land here had been heaving and shifting for several years, prior to which there had been a millenia of slower warping interrupted periodically by earthquakes. These had become more frequent—one or two every century—until now hardly a decade passed without at least one great temblor.

The first wisp of steam spurted from the earth during a lull in the trembling, followed by a whole series of steam vents. Hardly had the first roar of steam sounded when molten lava began to ooze out of several small fissures and vents. Then came a succession of minor explosions. Fountains of lava gushed forth, breaking up into sprays and showering the earth with cinders. These red cinder sprays continued spasmodically for some time, at night casting an eerie, pulsating light over the troubled landscape.

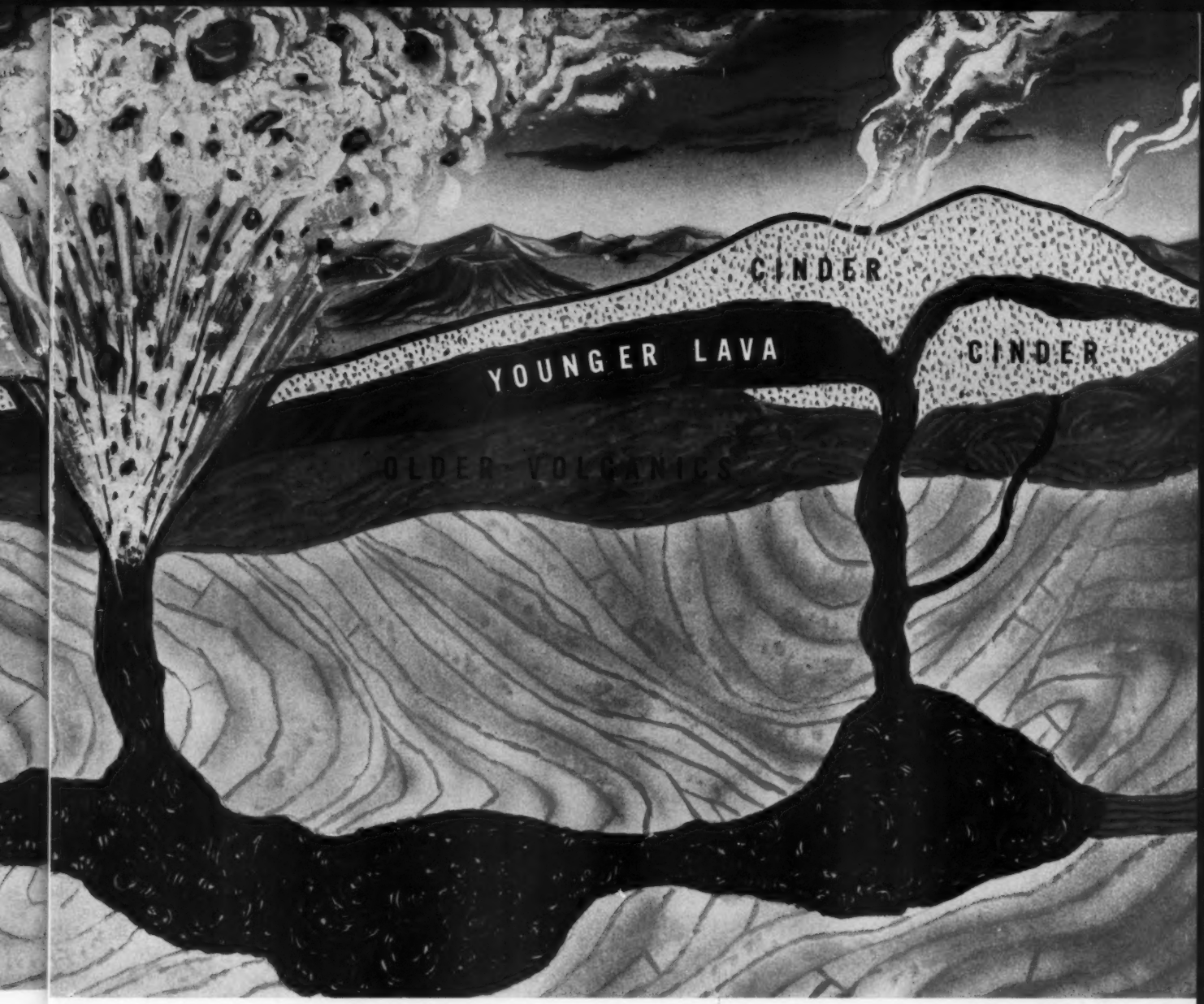
Meanwhile, several cinder cones grew to great height only to be demolished by subsequent flows



Land of Silent Thunder...in Ce

from the same vent, and later to be built up again as new cascades of cinders fell. For several weeks the eruptions waned and increased, the center of major activity shifting from time to time to different parts of the field.

From this scene of broad disorder, let us turn our attention to a far corner of the stage, concentrating now on a large volcano which had been spewing lava off and on for several weeks, gradually building up several superimposed flows to a thickness of hundreds of feet over the hillside



..in *Central Nevada Where Volcanoes Once Roared and Spouted Lava*

below. Now the lava flow had ceased and the vent was raining only cinders. Suddenly a trembling more violent than any that had gone before shook the ground. There was an ominous deep rumbling, the earth heaved and rolled momentarily, then came the roar of a tremendous explosion. The sky darkened as cinders, lava and rocks as large as city blocks flew through the air. A deep cone-shaped hole became visible as the sky cleared—a yawning, symmetrical pit opening hundreds of feet into the layers of lava covering the hillside.

Thus was Lunar Crater formed, created by a rare combination of events we are able to trace from geological evidence remaining today. We can deduce that early lava flows must have overrun the site of a developing volcanic vent, checking temporarily the escape of gases from the new vent and causing a buildup of tremendous pressure beneath the thin lid of lava. The artist's drawing above shows us diagramatically the epical event that followed.

Although this volcanic field in a remote corner

The Lunar Crater... a Weird Remnant of Nature's Angry Day

Formed as a result of a tremendous volcanic explosion, the Lunar Crater measures three-quarters of a mile across and 400 feet deep. It was once much deeper, but filled as a result of erosion. Above, U. S. 6 leads into the area.

of Nye County is not as large as some in states like Idaho and California, still it offers the most varied volcanic display in Nevada and tells a clear and informative story about geological processes.

The crater as well as the lava beds and cinder cones surrounding it have long been regarded with curiosity by Nye County ranchers and miners, but it was not until 1939 that park officials saw promise in the area and set up a sign on the main highway pointing out the dirt road to the crater.

contours of the breach. The form is preserved through centuries of desert cloudbursts because the porous, unconsolidated cinders soak up the water like a sponge and thus prevent the rapid erosion that would otherwise alter their appearance in a short time.

Northeast of the crater lies the most impressive of the lava flows in the vicinity, identified as the "new" lava flow on our map. The solidified front of this flow, an ominous dark mass seeming to

Although it still has not been developed as a park, this volcanic area has much of interest besides the pit. From the crater's rim, one can see more than 20 extinct volcanoes in the nearby hills, some hardly more than unobtrusive dark mounds. Others, like the huge, unusual but pleasingly shaped vent north of the crater, called "Grandfather's Chair," stand out as prominent features in the landscape. The flowing forms of these cinder cones were produced, in some instances, by the outflow of lava which breached the weak wall or scoured the lips of the cone. Later eruptions of cinders then covered the flow and softened the

crouch on the desert floor, is a basalt which has not yet been greatly affected by weathering, an indication that geologically it is of very recent date.

Just south of the paved highway and about a half mile east of the turnoff to Lunar Crater is one of the most interesting displays in the area, a cinder pit dug by the Highway Department. By turning off the main highway, one can drive right up to the 12-foot cinder wall, pictured on page 25, which is topped by layers of silt and alluvium. We know that on a broad, gently sloping land surface it takes about a thousand years or less for such an alluvial cover to be built up. Allowing

for some erosion of the cinder before the silt and alluvium were laid down, we can thus estimate when the last eruptions occurred here.

Even though four billion years—its estimated age—seems a long time for the earth to be thrashing around trying to get comfortable, there are at present more things going on at more places than at almost any other time in our planet's long history. In several ways, the earth is passing through one of its more restless periods, making

caused by an earthquake, for instance, changes them into a true liquid which works its way to lower pressure areas, usually toward the surface of the earth. It may take centuries for the magma to complete its journey and when it reaches the surface the temperature of the lava may be close to 2,000 degrees Fahrenheit.

In the Lunar Crater area, we see that the cinder cones and lava flows lie along a belt running roughly north to northeast. Most of the valleys

us more curious than ever about the cause of volcanic activity we see at the Lunar Crater.

Scientists do not know all the answers, but the best present opinion is that the source of heat comes from the decay of radioactive elements. These are not evenly distributed through the earth's crust and cause "hot spots," usually located along zones of weakness where earthquakes are also most likely to occur. At the enormous pressures prevailing within the crust at depths of 20 or 30 miles, where most magmas are thought to originate, the rocks are not truly liquid in spite of the high temperatures. A sudden release of pressure

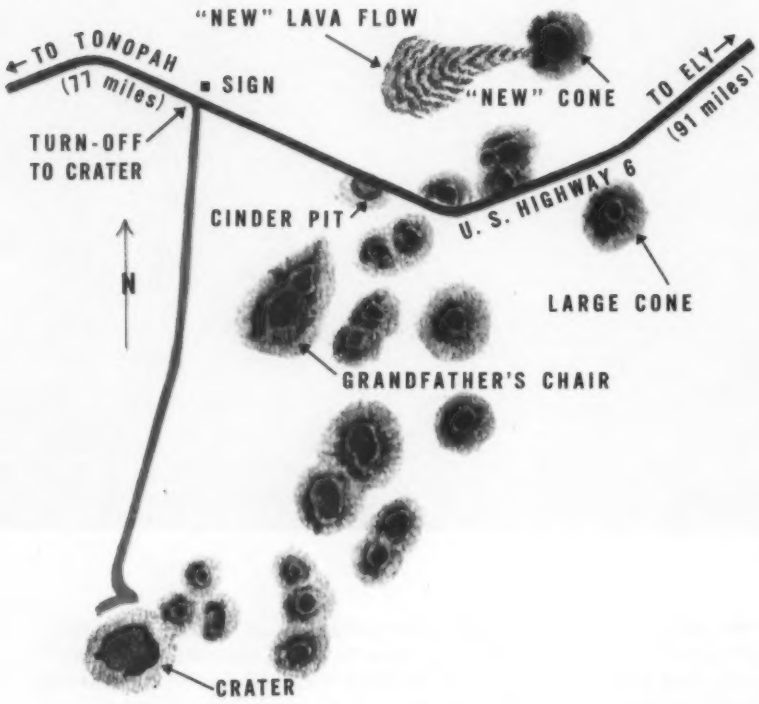
and mountain ranges in this part of the state, much older than the flows, have the same general trend. It is more than likely, then, that the mountain building processes left zones of weakness along which lava developed and later pushed to the surface, building up today's landscape.

The eruptions that produced the cinder cones could not have lasted for a very long time. The most extensive flows are about 400 feet thick while the cones are rarely more than 500 feet high. These are dimensions that could have been achieved in a matter of months if we judge by similar cones now being formed in other parts of

the world. However, thousands of years must have elapsed between the time that the older volcanic rocks were laid down and the younger flows covered them because the older rocks are deeply eroded, with valleys cut deep into their surfaces. The fresh appearance of the younger flows tells us that the crater's age is, at most, 2,000 years.

How are we able to estimate when these events occurred? Why, indeed, do we believe they actually did occur? We approach an answer to this question by realizing that the basic faith of all scientists, hence all scientific endeavor, rests ultimately upon an unprovable assumption that nature is consistent and understandable. Nature does not change the rules of the game according to time or place, making it possible for us confidently to interpret events now taking place in the stars in terms of process we can reproduce to a limited extent in our laboratories. Thus, the past can be understood in terms of processes now going on.

The fires are now banked and the thunder silent at Lunar Crater. But a trembling now and then reminds us that here a giant still sleeps, and that he may again burst into roaring, flaming wakefulness.



Cinder pit near the Lunar Crater tells a fascinating story of geological events. Black cinder is covered by a layer of silt and alluvium, thickness of which indicates that it is not very old and that volcanic activity was thus relatively recent.

LAS VEGAS GIANT

A Mammoth New Dome Crowns the Las Vegas Strip

Up until a few seasons ago, Las Vegas had almost everything his nibs, the tourist, could desire—luxurious resorts boasting the most extensive gaming facilities this side of Monte Carlo, entertainment by the country's top performers, spectacular mountain scenery near cool Lake Mead, and some of the most beneficent sunshine in the West.

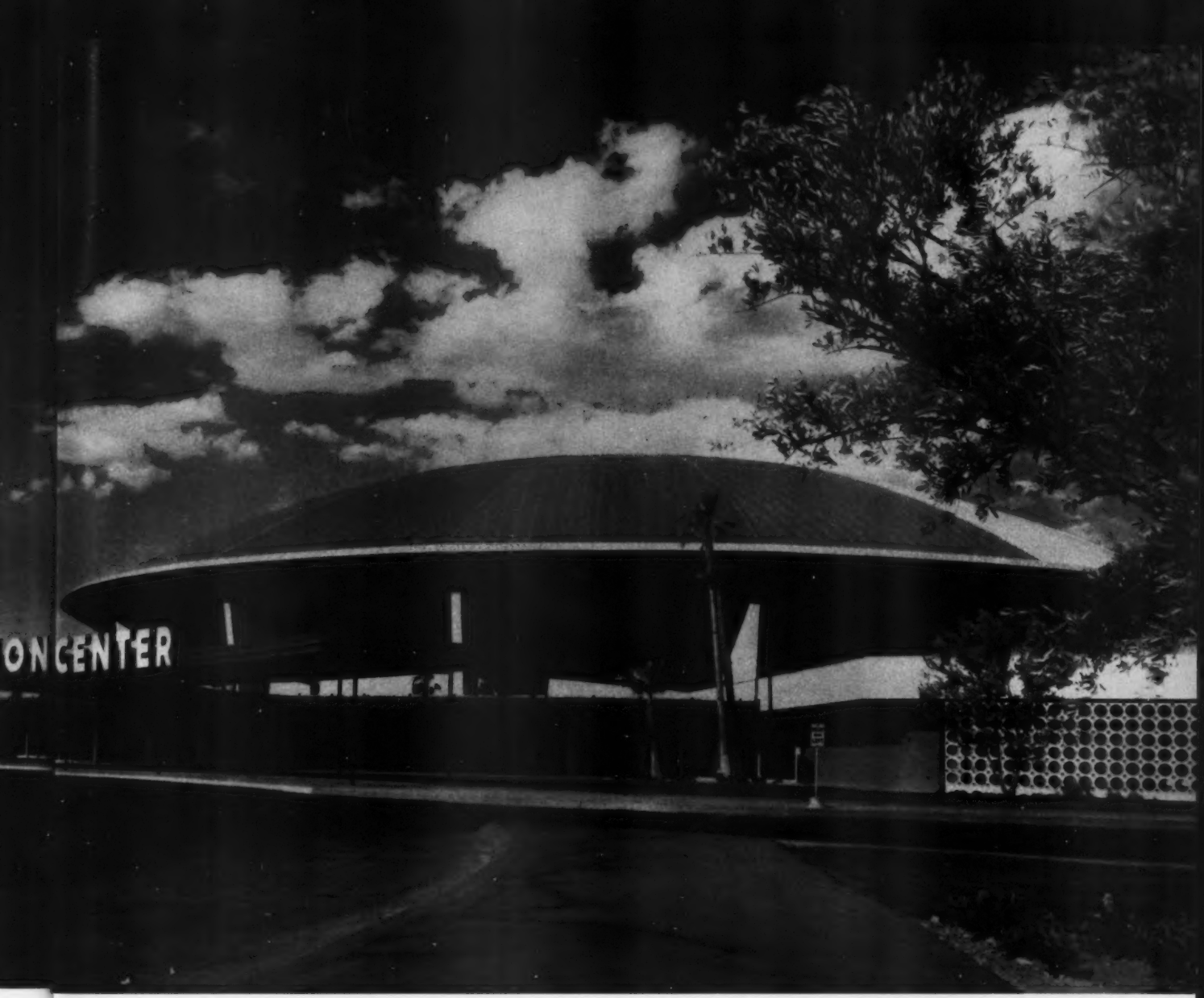
Just one thing was missing in this otherwise complete picture—a convention hall.

Convention crowds had been getting thicker and thicker in southern Nevada, partially due to irrepressible first-time visitors who, liking what they saw in Las Vegas, returned home and urged their clubs to convene there. As this snowballing situation continued, it became apparent that there was a shortage of ballrooms and auditoriums, and that something would have to be done to meet the growing call for space—big space.

Thus the idea for the county-owned Convention Center was born.

But before the dream could materialize into a steel and concrete reality, it took months of planning by farsighted area officials and businessmen. It took two bond elections and approving votes by a confident electorate. It took months more to tie the 30,000 tons of steel into a framework and to assemble the carloads of supplementary materials.

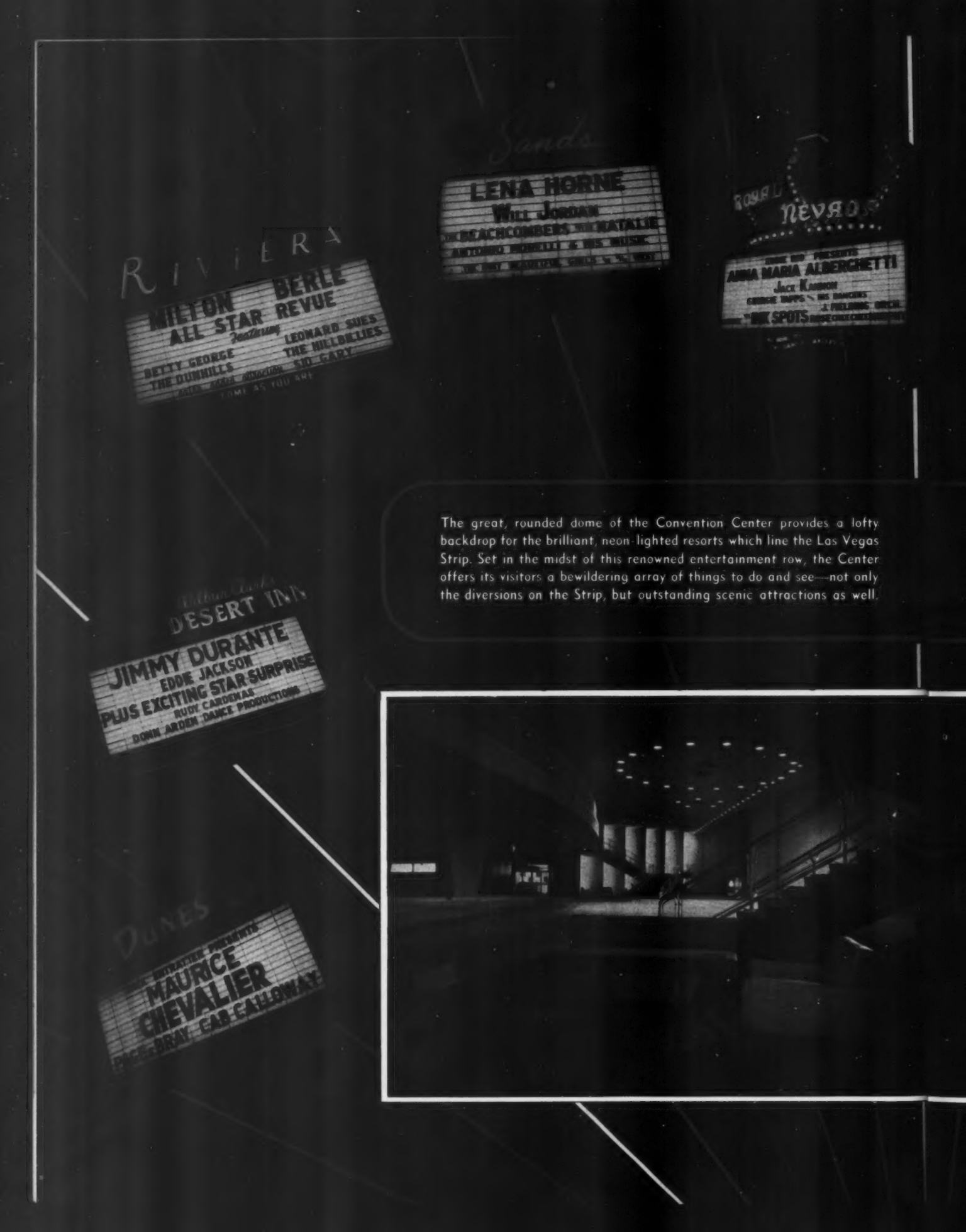
Then, suddenly, the job was done. A huge new



dome rose over the city and everyone in Las Vegas celebrated the opening last year of the new Convention Center. It took its place not only as a $6,000,000 landmark on the Strip, but as a monument to the energies and optimism of the Las Vegans who had dreamed the dream.

The new Center is worthy of their fondest expectations. To see it in its 47-acre setting is at once to realize that this is a giant among buildings of the giant class. To hear the statistics that describe it is a startling experience.

It is, first of all, the largest building in Nevada and among the largest of its type in the nation. Under its broad, three-block-long roof, the Center houses a mammoth rotunda auditorium, an even larger exhibition hall, a ballroom—one of the 17 "small" meeting rooms in the building, a cocktail lounge, kitchen, service rooms and equipment enough to run a small city. The small meeting rooms comfortably seat groups ranging from a scant handful of people to 1,200. Considerable maneuverability in handling crowds of such varying size is made possible by folding, soundproofed walls which automatically control space in the larger rooms. Separate sound, lighting and air-conditioning systems are provided for each room in the building. Over 9,000 yards of carpeting have been installed throughout the plant to insure quiet and to add a luxurious decorative touch to the spacious lobby and corridors.



The great, rounded dome of the Convention Center provides a lofty backdrop for the brilliant, neon-lighted resorts which line the Las Vegas Strip. Set in the midst of this renowned entertainment row, the Center offers its visitors a bewildering array of things to do and see—not only the diversions on the Strip, but outstanding scenic attractions as well.

Interior of the huge structure is dominated by gracefully curving walls. Carpeted and tastefully decorated, the main corridor is dotted with cozy lounge areas. The Center has a seating capacity of over 8,000, and accommodates almost as many at banquets. At the gala affair pictured below, for example, over 5,000 persons were present.

Spanning the circular auditorium is the broad, 330-foot dome under which a crowd of 8,500 persons can be seated in air-conditioned, upholstered comfort. The adjoining exhibit hall with its 90,000 square feet of floor space could, if anyone insisted, accommodate two football fields. More practically, it can house 300 ten-foot exhibit booths or seat 20,000 people.

It would be possible to reel off dozens of additional figures without making the most important point—that all these miles of carpet, tons of steel and thousands of square feet add up to a very beautiful thing. The Convention Center is graceful and well proportioned and, for all of its vastness, not ungainly as some big buildings turn out to be. From the top of its dome, down through the colorful mosaic murals on the interior walls, the Center is attractive—a truly fine addition to the southern Nevada resort community.

First major event to be held in the Convention Center was the World Congress of Flight in the spring of 1959. This great international exposition was attended by 8,500 delegates and exhibitors who found the Center an easy skip and a jump from the more than 13,000 hotel and motel rooms nearby. The gathering was regarded as a complete success by the representatives of the 50 nations which participated, and the Convention Center proved its adaptability brilliantly during the nonstop agenda of meetings, meals and displays.

Popular with Las Vegas youngsters this year was the recreational roller skating program held at the Center, while boxing and other such sports events in the rotunda auditorium won loud approval from their parents.

Since the conclusion of its first internationally publicized convention, the building has been used by dozens of other groups, large and small, who have come to Las Vegas not only to work but to play a bit between business sessions. Meanwhile, once every hour, five days a week, the Center is invaded by groups of visitors who are given a detailed, informative look at this giant building which has taken such a prominent place in the Las Vegas scene.

Thanks to:

Articles by the well-known husband and wife team, Cliff and Gene Segerblom, often appear in magazines of national circulation. Life in their pleasant southern Nevada community, Boulder City, is told in their word and picture story on page 2.

In the family portrait above, Cliff and Gene pose with son Tick, 11, and daughter Robin, 15, both of whom are star performers on Boulder City's swimming team. In addition to being a photographer, Cliff is an excellent artist whose work is very popular in the Las Vegas area.

As indicated in the informative article "Volcanoes," on page 18, natural oddities such as central Nevada's mammoth Lunar Crater pose no mystery to geologist Conrad Martin.

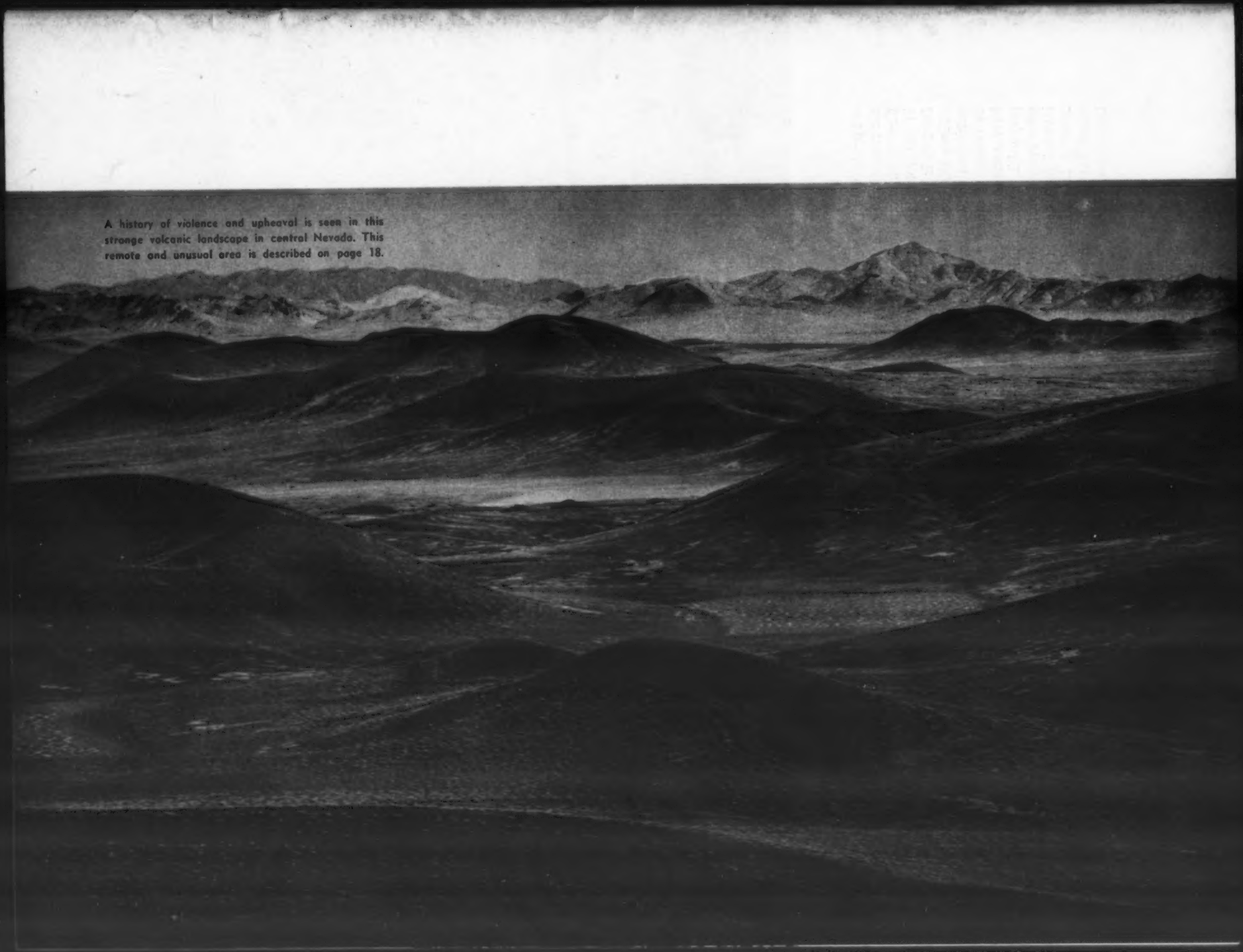
A graduate of the University of Nevada where he was later an instructor at the Mackay School of Mines, Mr. Martin is now a consulting geologist for Basic, Incorporated, at Gabbs, Nevada. Here he is helping to develop new methods of extracting magnesite ore, one of the state's most important mineral products. Well known in western mining circles, Mr. Martin has contributed articles to *Mining Engineering* and is a member of the Geological Society of America and the American Institute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers.

PHOTO CREDITS—Front cover and center pages, views of Lake Mead by Cliff Segerblom. Also by Mr. Segerblom are photos illustrating the lead article, pages 2–10. Exception is the aerial view of Boulder City on page 2 provided by the Bureau of Reclamation, Boulder City.

Photos of the Lovelock swimming pool, pages 11–13, by staff photographer Adrian Atwater. Also by Mr. Atwater are the views of the volcanic area described on pages 19–25, and the colorful landscape on the back cover.

Portrait of Major Ormsby on page 15, courtesy Nevada State Museum.

Color and black-and-white photos of the Las Vegas Convention Center generously provided by the Las Vegas News Bureau.



A history of violence and upheaval is seen in this strange volcanic landscape in central Nevada. This remote and unusual area is described on page 18.